

Remarks

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge that claims 17–18, 20–28, 30–31, and 37–38 were allowed.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

Applicants acknowledge that their submission filed on 2/24/10 was entered. In that submission, claims 17, 20, 24, 31, and 33 were amended, claims 19 and 29 were canceled, and claim 38 was added.

Election/Restrictions

Applicants acknowledge that the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action of 2/26/09 has been withdrawn. Therefore, claims 21–23 are no longer withdrawn from consideration. Furthermore, claims 21–23 are each being amended to depend from claim 17 because claim 19 has been canceled.

Claim Rejections — 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 33–36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guglielmi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,592,533) in view of Rado (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0074985). Applicants traverse the rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Claim 33 is being amended to recite, inter alia, “...wherein the restriction part remains stationary as the first valve member moves from the first valve member closed position to the first valve member open position.” Neither Guglielmi et al. nor Rado teach such a recitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 33 is patentable. And claims 34–36, which depend from claim 33, are therefore patentable at least for the reasons that claim 33 is patentable.

New Claims


Applicants are adding claims 39 and 40 that each depend from claim 33. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 39 and 40 are patentable at least for the reasons that claim 33 is patentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is therefore requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if doing so would advance prosecution of this case.

No fees are believed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to Charge Deposit Account No. 50-0852 for any required fees, or to credit any overpayment associated with this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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